

ORANA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

25TH NOVEMBER 2021

Good evening parents, teachers and other attendees of our Orana school community. I would like to welcome and thank you all for attending the 2021 Annual Community Meeting.

Every year brings with it challenges. The impact of Covid-19 continued to challenge us with snap lock downs, vaccinations, and the changing advice on the road map forward. We thank parents for their unbelievable efforts in the face of any financial hardship they have experienced because of Covid. In 2022 the Advisory Council will continue to endorse and assist with what we consider important and necessary for our children and school community. The economy will continue to impact some families. The Advisory Council stays mindful of this, and the many different circumstances that families find themselves in. We pray for a safe environment for all of us going forward and into the future as our borders open.

The Advisory Council assists Orana in many ways. This year CEWA Ltd requested that as Advisory Council Chair that I form part of the panel also including Father Thai as Parish Priest, in finding a permanent replacement for Christine Walsh as principal after her resignation. After a short process, it was with great pleasure that I could announce Dee Johnston as our permanent principal. Father Thai as Parish Priest, and myself as Advisory Council Chair also formed part of the panel in appointing Kathryn Alp as one of our new assistant principals.

The Advisory Council also assists with the financial direction of Orana. This includes capital projects. In 2021, and into 2022 and beyond, the Advisory Council's initiatives include:

- Soft Form playground flooring in the Early Years area, improving student safety, improving the ability to play in this space, and improving the general aesthetics

- New flooring in the Kindy rooms
- Approval of fixing and repaving of the area outside OSH leading on to the oval
- Early planning for renovations of the senior years & OSH toilet & Science block
- Early feasibility for repairs of the basketball courts

At this time I would like to thank my fellow members of the School Advisory Council for their efforts and support in 2021. Thank you also to Anne Fissioli our Finance Officer for her continued care of the financial wellbeing of our school, and for her close interaction with the Finance Committee of the Advisory Council.

As you would be aware, a few positions have become vacant including my own on the Advisory Council in 2022. I'd like to thank Amanda Walker, Yvette Mistry, Emma Monaco, and Louie Sugiyanto for your inspiration and help during your time on the Advisory Council.

It has been a privilege to have served on the School Board and now Advisory Council for the last seven years. Over my time, I have found that it is the uniqueness of each and every Council member's talents and experience that makes The Advisory Council stronger and then more capable in assisting the school with its ever changing needs. I encourage anyone who feels they have something to offer, to consider putting their hand up for a position on the Advisory Council. Our school and our children will be richer for it.

Andrew Counsel
School Advisory Council Chair